

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an image reading apparatus using a contact image sensor, an area light source for reading an image from a film original is provided. The area light source has a light guide plate and an LED device in the center of a side surface on the shorter side of the light guide plate. In the LED device, red-, green-, and blue-LED chips are mounted on the same LED package and red-, green-, and blue-light are switched and lit on. In the light guide plate, the bottom surface is covered with a white bottom plate and four side surfaces are covered with a white case frame. A scattering sheet is adhered to the upper surface of the white case frame, that is, a light emitting surface. On the rear surface of the light guide plate, light scatterers are formed by a screen printing method so that a specific pattern is drawn by high-reflectance white ink.